

# **Subwatershed No. 207** (UPPER CHISEL RUN)

#### **OVERALL PROGNOSIS:**

The Upper Chisel Run has experienced a great amount of development and is currently classified as IMPACTED. RTE populations are largely absent in the subwatershed and stream habitat scores are only Fair/Good. Additionally, current RPA protection is limited (only 2% of subwatershed area) and wetlands are of low quality.

#### See Figure

**Drainage Area:** 3.2 sq. miles (2,051 acres)

#### Land Use in Subwatershed 207

	Percentage	Subwatershed Category
2000 Impervious Cover	16.4 %	Impacted
Future impervious cover (with buildout)	21.7 %	Impacted
Target Watershed Classification		Impacted

Developable area in subwatershed: 392.1 acres or 19% of subwatershed area

#### **Conservation Areas in 207**

No surveyed RTE species.

Contiguous forest areas: No significant contiguous forest areas.

Wetland areas: Least trillium commonly associated with stream-side seeps, but channel incision has noticeably reduced the quality of these micro habitats in the Upper Chisel Run.

Beaver dam complexes: Extensive old and new beaver activity just upstream of Route 199.

### **Stream Conditions in 207**

Table 207-1. General Stream Condition in Subwatershed 207		
Stream Quality Description Rank		Rank
Fair	good candidate for restoration	8 of 11

Habitat assessment: Stream assessment evaluation indicates that stream reaches in the Upper Chisel Run are in the Fair range. The stream reaches exhibited impacts related to an increase in impervious cover. These impacts included a reduction of the in-stream habitat quality, an increase in sediment transport and deposition, channel widening and incision, and streambank instability.

### **Stormwater Management in 207**

Divided into eight catchments, this subwatershed is also highly developed-a candidate for stream restoration. Primary stormwater strategies include the use of stormwater management per the current James City County standards for new development in combination with stormwater retrofitting. Catchments that are fully or almost fully developed may require no additional stormwater action.

Table 207-2. Priority Stormwater Retrofit Areas				
- 4	Type of Retrofit and Rank			
Retrofits	Regional Ponds for Future Development	Stormwater Retrofit	Benefit	
207-2	3 of 9		Regional facility to control drainage from future development as well as from existing development. This retrofit may be constructed in conjunction with rehabilitation of the stream.	
207-3		4 of 17	Small pond to control stormwater runoff from developed land.	
207-4		1 of 17	Pond to control unmanaged development upstream of proposed stream rehabilitation site.	

#### **Recommendations for Subwatershed 207**

#### Aquatic Buffers

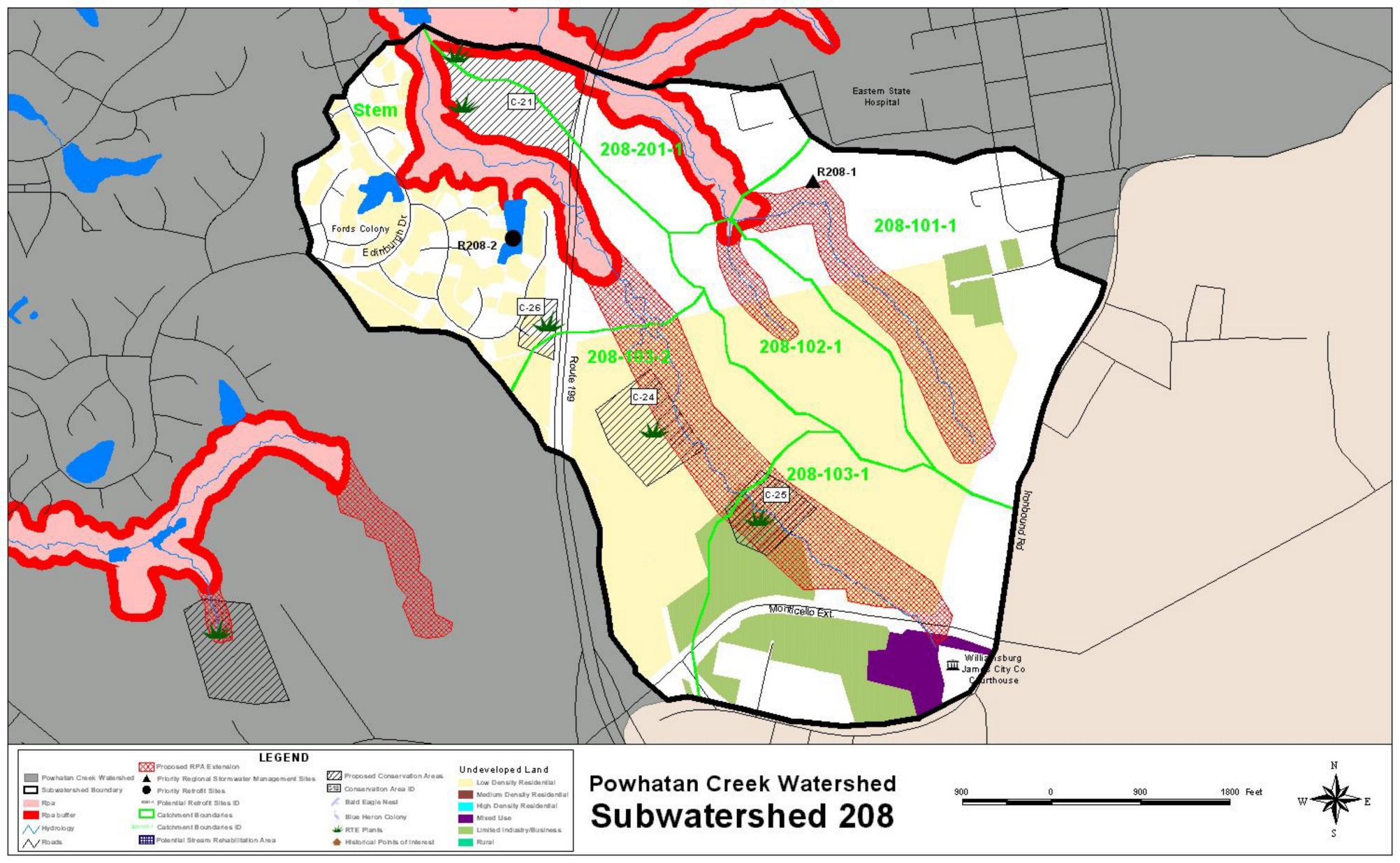
• Use the open space requirement to increase the aquatic buffers including 1<sup>st</sup> order and intermittent streams or allow for off-site protection of open space to protect identified conservation and buffer areas

### Restoration

• Two potential stream restoration sites, both are associated with stormwater retrofits.

#### Stormwater Management

• Several stormwater retrofits are proposed to address unmanaged stormwater and to control runoff from future development.



# **Subwatershed No. 208 (LOWER CHISEL RUN)**

## **OVERALL PROGNOSIS:**

Lower Chisel Run is clearly the most threatened subwatershed in all of the Powhatan Creek watershed. Currently, classified as SENSITIVE, it contains large population of RTE species (small whorled pogonia and Virginia least trillium), large contiguous forest tracts, excellent stream habitat scores and extensive floodplain wetlands. With 49% remaining developable land, this subwatershed is expected to shift to IMPACTED in the coming years, as a result of large planned developments in the headwaters, unless extraordinary watershed protection measures are implemented. Some indication of the future of Lower Chisel Run can be seen in the current condition of the Upper Chisel Run.

#### See Figure

**Drainage Area:** 1.25 sq. miles (799.8 acres)

#### Land Use in Subwatershed 208

Percentage Subwatershed Category 2000 Impervious Cover 5.8 % Sensitive

Future impervious cover (with buildout) 15.2 % Impacted Target Watershed Classification Sensitive

Developable area in subwatershed: 394.2 acres or 49% of subwatershed area

### **Conservation Areas in 208**

Table 208-1. Priority Conservation Areas in Subwatershed 208			
Conservation Area	Description	Conservation Area Ranking	Acquisition Ranking
C-21	Potential RTE, small contiguous forest	8 of 21	
C-24	RTE population near New Town	4 of 21	2 of 17
C-25	RTE population sensitive to hydrology	1 of 21	
C-26	RTE population in Ford's Colony	10 of 21	8 of 17

The largest populations of small whorled pogonia and Virginia least trillium can be found along the slopes and floodplains of lower Chisel Run and have been confirmed by the Virginia Natural Heritage and our field survey. Several of these populations are located within the planned New Town development.

*Contiguous forest areas:* Several tracts of contiguous forest are located along lower Chisel Run, both within and adjacent to the existing RPA.

Wetland areas: Least trillium is commonly associated with stream-side seeps. The seeps found in subwatershed 208 are in good condition.

#### **Stream Conditions in 208**

Table 208-2. General Stream Condition in Subwatershed 208		
Stream Quality	Description	Rank
Excellent	High quality stream channels; shows minimal impacts at present; vulnerable due to future planned development	3 of 11

*Habitat assessment:* Streams in Lower Chisel Run are currently in excellent condition and rank among the best in the watershed. These streams, however, are likely to be influenced by extensive planned development in the headwaters (i.e., New Town).

## **Stormwater Management in 208**

Subwatershed 208 is divided into six catchments. It is a sensitive subwatershed and the streams received the third highest quality rating in the watershed. The proposed New Town Center is located in the lower portion of the subwatershed. Stormwater strategies for the subwatershed include the application of the Special Stormwater Criteria for Stream Protection Areas to new development, as well as minimizing hydrologic impacts to RTE species by using parallel piping to the regional pond.

Table 208-3. Priority Stormwater Retrofit Areas				
	Type of Retrofit and Rank			
Retrofits	Regional Ponds for Future Development	Stormwater Retrofit	Benefit	
208-1	2 of 9		Potential regional facility to treat stormwater runoff from uncontrolled development, as well as any potential future development.	
208-2		8 of 17	Retrofit of wet pond to provide channel protection.	

#### **Recommendations for Subwatershed 208**

### Conservation Areas

• Acquisition or easement of lands associated with rare plant species (C-24, 25, and 26).

### Better Site Design

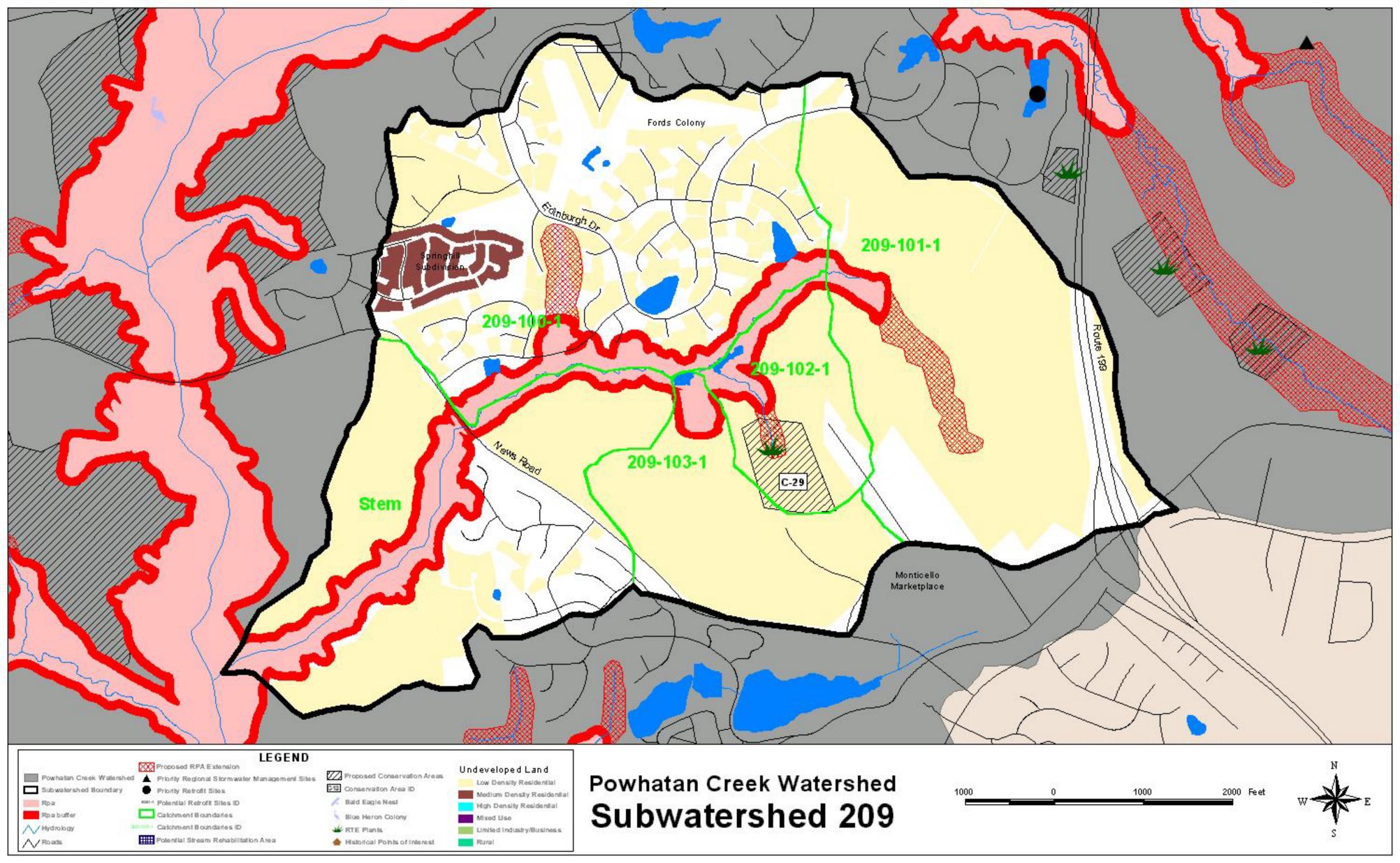
• The use of better site design to reduce the amount of impervious cover. These techniques reduce the amount and frequency of stormwater runoff that adversely impact streams.

### Forest Retention

• Retain as much forest cover as possible by minimizing clearing and grading and reducing the development footprint.

# Stormwater Management

• The use of Special Stormwater Criteria to minimize the impacts of new development on natural channels and to rare wetland plant species. One option is to pipe frequent channel erosion causing storms down to a regional facility.



## Subwatershed No. 209

#### OVERALL PROGNOSIS:

This subwatershed is classified as SENSITIVE, and is a fine example of a high quality headwater streams in the watershed, as indicated by its excellent stream habitat scores, expansive floodplain wetlands, and contiguous forests. However, the subwatershed is under considerable development pressure. Impervious cover has increased by 19% in the last two years, and almost 50% of the remaining area of the subwatershed could be developed under current zoning. Consequently, in the absence of extraordinary watershed management efforts, it is likely that this subwatershed will shift into the IMPACTED category within the next decade.

### **See Figure**

**Drainage Area:** 1.69 sq. miles (1,083.2 acres)

#### Land Use in Subwatershed 209

	Percentage	Subwatersnea Category
2000 Impervious Cover	5.3 %	Sensitive
Future impervious cover (with buildout)	12 %	Impacted
Target Watershed Classification		Sensitive

Developable area in subwatershed: 521.8 acres or 48% of subwatershed area

#### **Conservation Areas in 209**

Table 209-1. Priority Conservation Areas in Subwatershed 209			
Conservation Area	Description	Conservation Area Ranking	Acquisition Ranking
C-29	RTE population near Jesters Lane, sensitive to hydrological changes	6 of 21	4 of 17

*Presence of RTE species:* Some potential based on proximity to other populations in adjacent subwatershed (208-Lower Chisel Run).

Contiguous forest areas: Yes, some small forest tracts are located outside of the RPA.

Wetland areas: Several high quality wetlands are located in the floodplain and are within the RPA.

*Beaver dam complexes:* There is a moderate amount of complexes that have caused some inundation in the upper reaches of the stream.

#### **Stream Conditions in 209**

Table 209-2. General Stream Condition in Subwatershed 209		
Stream Quality	Description	Rank
Excellent/Good	Intact forested stream valleys present; vulnerable to future planned development	4 of 11

*Habitat assessment:* Stream assessment evaluation indicates that stream reaches in this subwatershed are in currently in excellent condition, and rank second among all the subwatersheds within the watershed.

### **Stormwater Management in 209**

Subwatershed 209 is divided into 5 catchments. The streams in Subwatershed 209 are of high quality, but the subwatershed is under considerable development pressure, including a portion of the proposed New Town development. Primary stormwater strategies include the use of on-site stormwater management and Special Stormwater Criteria (SSC) to minimize the impact to recommended conservation areas.

#### **Recommendations for Subwatershed 209**

#### Land Conservation

- Attempt to keep the watershed in the sensitive category. Perhaps by establishing a subwatershed impervious cover cap of 9 %.
- Concentrate required open space along streams and wetlands.
- Allowances in the zoning to cluster down maintaining the same density. This would increase the amount of land left in the natural condition.

### Stormwater Management

• The use of Special Stormwater Criteria to minimize the impacts to the C-29 Conservation Area.